

CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATIONCLASSIFICATION **SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY** 25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Italy

DATE DISTR. 22 Oct. 1951

SUBJECT Views of a Soviet Official
in Western Europe

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ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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INFO. [REDACTED]**DO NOT CIRCULATE**SUPPLEMENT TO
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In connection with possible Soviet participation in the Milan Fair for 1952, [REDACTED] a Soviet official in Western Europe made the following remarks [REDACTED]

- a. Compared to the West, the Soviet Union is slightly below par, especially in the technical field, and must try in every way to gain time. Technical parity may be achieved within the next ten years.
- b. For the present, the Soviets must absolutely prevent the West from realizing its aggressive intent. To achieve this the Soviet Union would use all means at its disposal; namely:
- 1) Acts of force to impress the West but not those which would provoke a general war; and
 - 2) To resort to diplomatic withdrawals and concessions without giving an impression of weakness.
- c. The Soviets would also count on economic and social difficulties in which the West would be involved if the current pace of expenses for rearmament should continue. The Soviet Union expects the West to be slowed down by internal difficulties. The Soviet economists do not believe that the West can support for many years the weight of current military expenditures without provoking a serious economic crisis.

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No Change in Class. ☐☐ Declassified

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